(c) whether NALCO have warned of lay-off because of this; and

(d) the plan to tackle the mismatch of supply despite such huge stock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir. As per the policy of Coal India Limited, coal companies can maintain a stock requirement to one month production. Total stock as on 18.2.2008 was 34.539 million tonnes (Provisional) which is marginally lesser than the prescribed quantity.

(b) to (d) The supply of coal to the unit of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) at Angul, Orissa was affected during July-September, 2007 due to adverse geo-mining conditions at Bharatpur Project, resulting in reduction of production and frequent law and order problems in nearby villages in view of Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) problems. The shortfall in coal despatches through Merry-Go-Round (MGR) was compensated from other mines of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) and Bharat Cooking Coal Limited (BCCL). However, the total despatches to the units of NALCO in Orissa from Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) during the period April, 2007 to January, 2008 was 4.409 million tonnes, which work out to an average of about 14400 tonnes per day. During February, 2008 (till 18th February), the despatches worked out to an average of 18288 tonnes per day.

Ministry of Coal has not received any representation recently from M/s. NALCO about proposed layoff due to non availability of coal.

Coal block for captive use

202. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total reserves of coal in billion tonnes available in the country and the number of blocks allocated during 2007 to Central and State PSUs:

(b) whether the Government is hopeful of captive production of 104 mt. of coal outside domain of coal PSUs during 2011-12 as against 25 mt. expected during 2007-08; and

(c) if so, whether any block is there for captive use by Public and Private sector companies so far allocated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) As per available information with Geological Survey of India (GSI), the total geological resources of coal available in the country is 257.38 billion tonnes as on 1.4.2007. Total geological resources of 8779 million tonnes in 34 coal blocks were allocated to Central and State Public Sector Undertakings during the period January, 2007 to December, 2007.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Blocks have been allocated to Public Sector companies both through Government Dispensation route for commercial use and through the Screening Committee route for captive consumption. Out of 181 coal blocks allocated till 31st January, 2008, 120 coal blocks with a total geological resources of about 21641.73 million tonnes have been allocated to public and private sector companies through the Screening Committee route for captive use only.

Allotment of coalfields to private parties

203. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allot vast areas of coal fields to private parties for converting coal to petroleum;

(b) if so, the names of the companies to which coalfields have been allotted and are proposed to be allotted for the purpose;

(c) the quantity of petrol/gas likely to be produced annually by each of these companies and by when that is likely to be available for domestic consumption; and

(d) how much they would add to the overall energy basket of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) A Notification was issued by the Government on the 12th July, 2007 specifying coal liquefaction to be an end use for the purpose of captive mining under the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act, 1973.

(b) No coalfields have been allotted for this purpose.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view to reply given to part (b) above.

Abandoning of coal mines

204. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rules and procedure mandatory and to be followed by coal companies in abandoning a coal mine;

(b) the details of coal mines abandoned by Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL) in the coal belts in Raniganj-Asansol and Jharkhand during the last five years;

(c) whether Government has been seized of the fact that under-ground fire has engulfed several abandoned coal mines belonging to ECL in the Raniganj-Asansol belt for the last several months exposing the inhabitants in its vicinity to disastrous consequences; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken, if any, for safety of the residents and properties in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The mandatory rules and procedures to be followed by coal companies in abondoning a coal mine and as prescribed in the Coal Mines Regulations 1957 and as per guidelines issued by the Directorate General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad, from time to time.

(b) No coal mine has been abandoned in the Eastern Coal Fields Limited (ECL) during the last five years. However, production operation has been suspended in the following 7 (seven) underground mines during the last five years on the ground of exhaustion of reserves in working seams/safety and economic unviability:

(i) Samla
(ii) Khoirabad Incline
(iii) Lachipur (RD Unit)
(iv) Gopinathpur
(v) Sangramgarh
(vi) Chinakuri Mine No. 11
(vii) Bhamuria Unit of Perbelia Colliery

(c) No fire has engulfed abandoned coal mines belonging to ECL in Raniganj-Asansol belt for the last several months. However, recently due to illegal mining, fire at two locations under Satgram area *viz.* Benalee and J.K. Nagar fire project had occurred.